

The Pinnacle

Destination Known

A TIME TO RISE

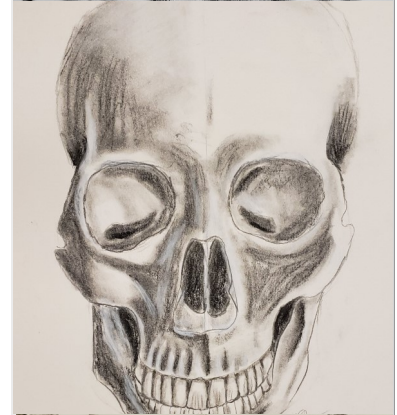
BY: EBONY WILLIAMS

Dear Students,

I had the honor to do the Pinnacle this semester. I know that we are going through tough times during this time of a pandemic. I know not a single person knew we would be faced with such a dangerous storm that has hit us detrimentally and even to some— personally. But I would like to say is we have came a long way, since March 2020. We are overcoming, regardless of the obstacles this catastrophic virus has put all of us through. I know that stress, fear, mental illness are at an all-time-high right now. I encourage my fellow students to keep moving forward, as the ball will keep rolling and the balance will teeter— for once it goes down, it will always rise up again. Take this opportunity from this challenging time to rise up and make something greater of yourself. Help one another, lift one another, protect one another— we are a community; who needs it more than ever before. I want to say that I am proud of all of you and we will continue to rise up and overcome.

P.S. Everything helps— continue to wash your hands, social distant to your best ability, avoid all germy activity (such as messing with your face, etc.), wear your mask when mandated (even when it's not— we are protecting another, including yourself), and other CDC/OTC recommendations to prevent the spread of the virus, at all cost. Thank you!

The OTC Honors Program provides academically motivated, high achieving students, who conduct themselves in a responsible manner. They're given the opportunity to develop their potential through collaboration with a designated community of scholars, enhanced learning environments, and opportunities.



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CONTACT US

If you are interested in applying to the Honors Program or have already been accepted and wish to have your work published in the newsletter, you may email honors@otc.edu for more information or search 'honors program' on the OTC website.

Office Phone: 417-447-8905 —Ext. 8905

HONORS ORIENTATION

BY: KORI LITTLE

The Fall 2020 semester has been unusual in many ways. One change that we had to make was the orientation normally held at the beginning of the semester. I did not get to meet the new Honors Program students and see the familiar faces of returning students. Seeing everyone in one room is my favorite time of the semester. Instead you had the opportunity to meet me and the other Honors Program Student Council officers through video. You were also given information about changes in the requirements for service learning, mask and social distancing guidelines for OTC and the Honors office, and how to contact the office. Of course, there was a small quiz to make sure you watched the orientation. How did you do? If you would like to re-watch the orientation video, visit the Honors Program Canvas page. I hope you have a great semester and I get to see each of you soon.

Quiz Answers! (:

Q1: Where is the office located?

A: ICE 352

Q2: How has the on-campus service hour requirement changed?

A: We no longer require it for the foreseeable future. Per semester.

Q3: Who must you contact before you graduate to ensure you have achieved Honor Program distinction?

A: John Cook, the requirement specialist

Q4: True or False: There are some scholarships available to Honors Program students that are not available to the general public

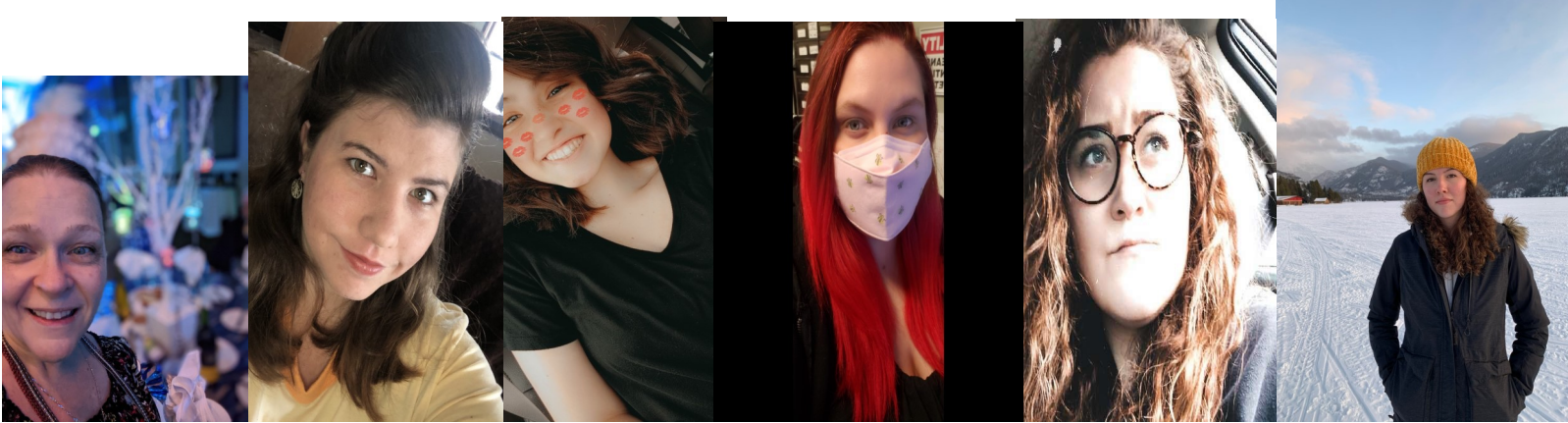
A: True!!

Q5: What is the #1 way our office will communicate updates, notices, and other general information to you this semester?

A: Canvas

MEET THE OFFICERS

Fall 2020



President– Kori Little

VP of Fundraising– Jennifer Fortner

VP of Community Service– Annice Cotter

VP of Publicity– Cheyanne Griffin & Sammi Smith

Treasurer– Kylie Gillen

VP of the Pinnacle– Paige McFarlan and Ebony Williams

Secretary– Kallie Tuter

VP of Social and Educational Activities– Jasmyn Johnson

VP of Campus Service– Xena Smith

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST

BY: ANNICE COTTER

Hello Honors Students!

This month, we are highlighting [Ozarks Food Harvest](#). The Honors Program has volunteered with this organization for many years. This year, the pandemic has created a heightened need for volunteers. They are in desperate need of volunteers. Recently, they have seen an increased need for food distribution and are having a hard time getting the extra volunteers necessary to meet their needs. We encourage you to volunteer on your own time. Ozarks Food Harvest has adjusted their service in order to meet the social distancing standards.

They have many different sessions you can choose from, but sadly no weekend options due to COVID. Their current sessions are:

- Monday- Friday 9:00-noon
- Monday-Thursday 1:00-4:00

Tuesdays 6:00-9:00 p.m.

To help at Ozarks Food Harvest you can go to www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer. Once there hit the “Apply” button and fill out the application. When the application is processed you will get login information and you can sign up for your shift.

If you want to be one of the volunteers to help give hope to the hungry, if you want to say, “because of me, someone eats today”, contact Jo Thompson at 417-865-3411, ext. 114 or go to the OFH webpage, www.ozarksfoodharvest.org

VOLUNTEERING WITH COVID-19

BY: JENNIFER FORTNER

When asking an organization to volunteer, some even enquire whether or not you’re a student on campus or online mostly to see overall contact. For these reasons, more than ever, organizations need help because of safety precautions brought on by COVID-19. Though hard, volunteering is still available, but be ready for an overall screening process for your protection, and the protection of the people your trying to help.



By Cheyanne Griffin

Activities

By: Jasmyn Johnson



(Outdoor Activity) Nature Center:

- FREE; No cost
- COVID Restrictions
- Building is closed, but trails are still open
- Masks aren't required
- Be sure to practice social distancing
- Hours of Operation:
- 8am-8pm daily
- Other restrictions
- No pets, bicycles, or running (There are certain times for running)
- Location: 4601 S. Nature Center Way, Springfield Mo, 65804
- Phone number: 417-888-4237



(Indoor Activity) Springfield Art Museum:

- FREE; No cost
- COVID restrictions
- Must wear a mask
- One way in, one way out
- 6 ft apart from other groups
- Cleaning stations throughout exhibits for health and safety
- Hours:
- Monday- Closed
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10am-6pm
- Thursday 10am-8pm
- Location: 1111 E. Brookside Dr, Springfield Mo 65807
- Phone number: 417-837-5700



INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT

BY: SAMMI SMITH

I'd like to highlight one of our Honors Program teachers, Mr. Andrew Crocker. I had asked Mr. Crocker to introduce himself to the Honors Program and he said first, "My name is Mr. Crocker and I teach Political Science 101 and I'm the Co-Sponsor of the on-campus student-led organization Politically Active." If you're worried about how Mr. Crocker is as a teacher, fear no more because he was the recipient of the Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award for 2020, from the Missouri Community College Association. Mr. Crocker is also a huge fan of soccer and went on to say, "I play a ton of soccer in a men's league, actually. I play at least twice a week and try not to embarrass myself. I've played a few teams that my students play on, which is always great to see them but miserable to try and keep up with them on the field!" Mr. Crocker has also been teaching politics and government for 10 years now and he definitely knows how to keep it interesting! If you need an Honors class and also need to take political science, take it with Mr. Crocker!

Ask Yerby



The Honors Program has always had a social media page but this year the social media pages are more important than ever. There a lot of new segments that are on our social media, but the most popular is a segment called "Ask Yerby."

Ask Yerby is a weekly post that allows those who follow our social media (Ozarks Honors for Facebook and @otchonors on Instagram), to be able to vote which questions they want to ask Mr. Yerby, Director of the Honors Program. Then on Fridays, they'll get the answer to the questions with the most votes. Some of the questions asked have been: "What are the craziest things your kids have done?" "What was your first car, and did it have a name?" "What TV show could you binge-watch for hours on end?" Check out our social media for Ask Yerby! Many more things will be happening on our social media this semester so stay tuned!

MASK FUNDRAISER

BY: JENNIFER FORTNER

Hello student body,

More than ever, classes have been hard because of the pandemic of COVID-19. Many of us have had to adjust online to remain safe, but one thing that remains important outside of those online classes is wearing a mask. The Honors Program wanted to bring to you a chance to buy quality masks that are aligned with the CDC guidelines. The masks are made by the Honors Program President, Kori Little. The design she has chosen, as



pictured below, is a three-layered origami style mask with a nose piece for extra security. Each mask is sanitized before you buy it, and even includes instructions on how to properly wash them to remain ultimately safe. Not to mention, we make it fun with patterns and solids so you can enjoy your mask at any occasion. We are asking only \$8 for adult mask and only \$3 dollars for children masks. We have also included a fun add-in buy with the price of \$2 for either a scrunchie or an adjustable cord for your mask. Please don't wait and contact us through Honors@otc.edu for more information or simply stop by our office Information Common's East 352 for your mask today!

TOYS FOR TOTS

BY: XENA SMITH

The United States Marine Corps Reserve started Toys for Tots in 1947 in Los Angeles. During 2019 T4T supported 10,000 children in our community and distributed over 60 thousand toys.

Our local T4T website link is: <https://springfield-mo.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx?nPageID=100&nPreviewInd=200Red>. "Donate Local" button will allow you to make cash donations directly to our local campaign. If you would like to volunteer T4T is ran thru Cross Lines and Salvation Army in our community. The contact information for these nonprofits is listed below:

Cross Lines: 615 N Glenstone Ave,
Springfield, MO
417-865-5810

The Salvation Army: 1707 E Chestnut Expwy,
Springfield, MO 65802
417-315-5509

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— XENA SMITH
VP OF CAMPUS SERVICE

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HONORS/

@OTCHONORS

Honors
Program

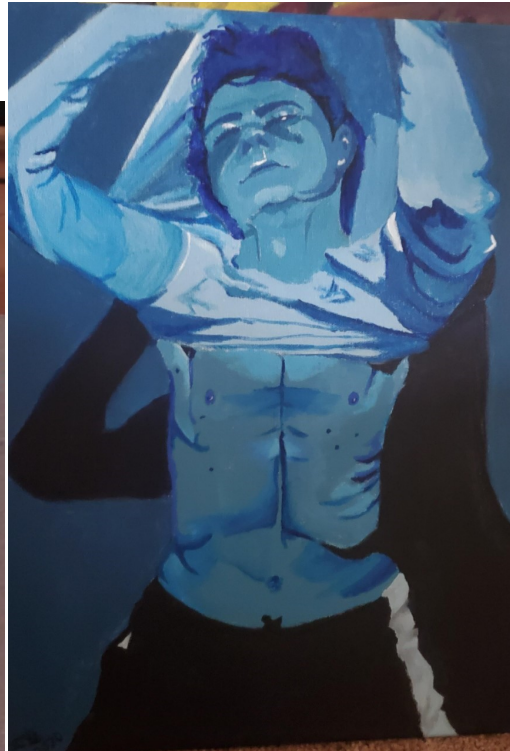
STUDENT REFLECTION OF OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD

BY: KYLIE GILLEN

The end of March had us all walled up in our homes, itching to leave. After being couped up in my house for several days, I decided I needed take steps to leave as soon as possible. I figured I'd focus on something that was hopefully out of COVID's reach, and far away from my home. In between my Netflix and eating binges, I researched a few study abroad programs. This led me to the Oxford Study Abroad Program. I sent my information in and mailed off my transcript. Months went by and I forgot I had even applied. I received an email one morning. It was the study abroad program asking for a few letters of recommendation; the last element of the application. I decided why not, and emailed a few teachers at OTC, asking for letters of recommendations. I chose not to think about it, because I doubted it would ever come to fruition. While checking my email one day, I saw the study abroad program's decision at the top and didn't think twice before opening it, knowing it was a firm "no." As I opened the email, I read the words "we are excited to inform you..." A surreal moment for sure. The program will consist of two tutorials during Summer 2021. I have yet to confirm my tutorials, but I requested English Literature and Microeconomics. I think back to all the times Mr. Yerby told me to put myself out there and just apply; "See what happens." Well I am pleased to say that I took his advice and applied. I had nothing to lose. I rationalized the lame attempt to apply by thinking, "I'm currently sitting with a "solid no," so why not give it a shot. I'm not kidding anyone though, becoming a permanent fixture on my couch day after day definitely helped me have the motivation to put myself out there. In the end, I encourage you to apply for that program that seems far out of your reach! What's the worst that can happen?



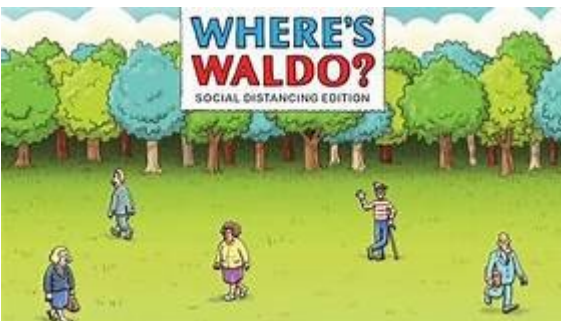
Arts by Honors



By: Celeste Wilburn

Mental Break

HOW TO PROPERLY
GREET SOMEONE DURING
THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



How to Join the Honors Program

Do you have a 3.5 GPA or higher? Are you looking for more challenges in the classroom? Would you like to graduate in the top 1%? The OTC Honors Program is here to promote academic excellence in OTC students. Are you interested yet? We're interested in having you! Here are the steps to apply for the Honors Program:

Fill out an application

Go to otc.edu and type in "honors program." On the right there should be a column with a tab, "apply to join." Fill out the application accurately and thoroughly.

Disperse three reference sheets to professors/mentors/co workers (no parents)

Write a 500 to 1,000-word essay describing why you want to join the honors program and what makes you a good candidate then send it to honors@otc.edu

Wait for the email!